ELECTION 2008 NEWS AND ANALYSIS, PAGES 3, 4 & 7

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Break in 21-year-old sex case

DNA testing leads Calgary police to suspect in 1987 home invasion, sexual assault

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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More than 20 years after a masked man sexually assaulted and terrorized a woman in her Calgary home, city police say DNA testing led them to the suspect.

Charges were announced yesterday after city cops arrested 50-year-old James Alexander Parent of Calgary on Friday in relation to the 21-year-old crime.

Staff Sgt. Olson

On April 6, 1987, a masked man rang the doorbell of a home in the southwest neighbourhood of Kelvin Grove around 10 p.m. A 30-year-old woman answered and the man forced his way in, ransacking the house and sexually assaulting her.

Sex crimes Staff Sgt. Curtis Olson said one of the distinctive elements of the crime was that the man was disguised and he threatened to kill the woman if she called police.

"But the woman ignored his threats, and she called police. She is very satisfied, very relieved that we were able to bring this to a close," Olson told reporters.

Olson won't disclose if Parent has had any previous charges against him but did say the suspect is known to travel frequently throughout the province.

DNA testing and other forensic techniques were able to identify a suspect in the case, which Olson said Parent became a person of interest "some weeks ago."

"Through liaisons with partnering agencies this person was brought to our attention and we were able to take a closer look."

Parent faces several charges in the incident. Police are investigating a number of other unsolved sexual assault cases to see if there is any connection with the accused. He is set to appear in court tomorrow.

Cold cases

- This is the second time since 2005 that police were able to use DNA in a cold sexual assault case to lay charges. In 2005, Hemlock rapist Emile Joseph Cromwell was sentenced to serve 20 years in jail for sexual assaults dating back to 1988.

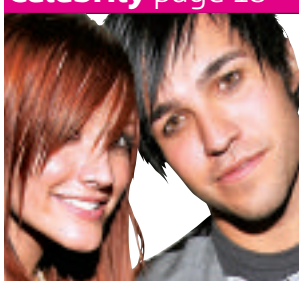
Your Money pg 12

Slim down exercise bills

Sport page 14

Federer grabs 5th U.S. title

Celebrity page 18



More twins in Tinseltown?

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Ernie Del Pinto, left, and lawyer Adriano Iovinelli talk with media yesterday outside the consulate building after a meeting with the Canadian ambassador to Thailand on recent developments in the investigation of Leo Del Pinto's death in the southeast Asian country.

Del Pinto begins to get answers in son's death

THAILAND A Calgary father finally got some answers after a meeting with the Canadian ambassador to Thailand regarding the death of his son in the country.

Ernie Del Pinto said he is confident justice will be served in the shooting of his 25-year-old son Leo Del Pinto in January after a fight with off-duty officer Sgt. Uthai Dechawiwat.

"I still don't have that big of a smile but I'm happy. I was worried but I'm reassured now," Del Pinto said after meeting with Ambassador David Sproule.

The officer has been charged with premeditated murder and attempted murder.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

City council approves cash for cops

POLICE Calgary city council pre-empted their three-year budget process yesterday, almost unanimously approving $25 million and 201 more police officers to combat a growing violent crime problem.

"This is only one piece of the puzzle," said Mayor Dave Bronconnier, indicating a need to pressure both the provincial and federal governments to fund an additional 200 officers.

Ald. Andre Chabot provided the lone vote against the measure and said he wanted more cops on Calgary streets as much as anyone, but wanted to see the full picture before approving any additional funding.

"We need cars for these police, we need more computers, we don't know the actual numbers," he said.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

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Police want information on attempted abduction
City cops are looking for public assistance in the attempted abduction of a 12-year-old girl Saturday in Scenic Acres NW. Police are asking for anyone with information to call them at 266-1234. **METRO CALGARY**

Local

Kidnappers demand $2.5M

Canadian Journalists For Free Expression called for the quick release of kidnapped Alberta-bred journalist Amanda Lindhout Tuesday, asserting a belief her Somali abductors will soon be forthcoming with ransom demands. Reports of a $2.5 million demand have already surfaced. Lindhout was taken at gunpoint outside Mogadishu Aug. 23.
METRO CALGARY

Candidates shouldn't push, Stelmach says

EDMONTON Federal candidates need to be better informed about policies surrounding Alberta's oilsands before they start "pushing around" the province, Premier Ed Stelmach said yesterday.

On the same day NDP Leader Jack Layton publicly pitched his plans to cap "unrestrained" oilsands developments, Stelmach said all leaders should get their facts straight.

Premier Ed Stelmach

"I am an individual that approaches these issues in a very pragmatic and calm fashion. But don't push this government," Stelmach said yesterday at the Westin Hotel.

"We know we have the right policy in place and we are going to work at getting the information out because I think good, solid information will help change the minds of some of these political leaders."

Stelmach said all provinces benefit from Alberta's oilsands, as 23 per cent of tax revenue collected from oil companies is shared with them.

Election 2008

Stelmach also encouraged voters to give Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Tory government a majority, but later criticized the Conservatives for their TV attack ads.

Stelmach reminded people of the union-funded "No Plan" ads that backfired in the Tories' favour in the March 3 Alberta election.

"Albertans care about what you are going to do for them, they don't care about another person attacking an individual," said Stelmach. "That's a lesson many leaders should have learned and it's going to take a few million dollars of investment in negative advertising to learn the hard way."

Stelmach made his comments after presenting awards during the Duncan & Craig Laurel Awards Gala for Edmonton area non-profit groups who have made differences in the community,

METRO EDMONTON

Seeds planted for housing

22-storey shelter going 'full-steam ahead'

ROBIN KUNISKI/METRO CALGARY

City council approved plans yesterday for the 22-storey Mustard Seed affordable housing tower at this site in Calgary's beltline that will eventually house 400 people.

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

A 22-storey alcohol and drug-free Mustard Seed shelter was given the go-ahead by Calgary city council Monday, ushering in a new era of affordable housing in the Beltline.

"We're absolutely thrilled," said Mustard Seed CEO Pat Nixon. "There are a lot of people doing the happy dance of joy down here."

Nixon, who hopes to have all necessary funding in place to open the 224-unit complex at 105 10 Ave. SE by 2011, said it's just the start of a long journey, but one he's confident can be travelled with relative ease. "It's now full-steam ahead," he said.

Council gave their unanimous stamp of approval despite some initial concerns over its original size, at 31 storeys and more than 400 people.

"Our problems won't be solved overnight and they won't be solved by one building," said Ald. Druh Farrell, who would have liked an even smaller, more manageable project.

MoreOnline
metronews.ca

News in brief

UNIVERSITY The University of Calgary has become the first post-secondary institution in Canada to offer a four-year graduation guarantee.
The 2010 Graduation Guarantee promises incoming students in the communication, social sciences, science and humanities degree programs that if they don't graduate within four years, the university will pay tuition for the extra courses. Dozens of students have signed up as the Sept.12 deadline approaches.

CONSTRUCTION City council repealed the 415 per cent hoarding fee hikes installed three months ago Monday, replacing them with a 15 per cent raise after Calgary's construction industry complained the number was punitive. **METRO CALGARY**

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch local reports on how Tory dominance in Calgary has pushed candidates from other parties to the fringes, and on how the culpability of dog owners is being scrutinized after a family cat was killed during a vicious attack
Read as Allan Small preaches patience in his Investment Perspective

RCMP officer gets eight months for sexual assault

A former Airdrie RCMP officer was sentenced to eight months in prison yesterday for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl in 2007. Guy Armand Raes resigned from his job as an RCMP officer. **METRO CALGARY**

Election 2008

Which issues matter most to Calgary voters?

KRISTA SYLVESTER
for Metro Calgary

As the federal election campaign kicks off, typically Conservative-voting Calgarians are sounding off about the issues they value most.

One thing is for certain: Calgarians aren't ready for another election already.

Melissa Melton, 25, moved to Calgary from Ottawa last year; since then, she's seen both municipal and provincial elections, followed by Sunday's announcement of a federal one. She'd like to see child care programs across the country, as well as a better justice system.

Tom Kwon

"I don't really care who wins, as long as they start getting tougher on crime. The Conservatives said they would, but I still haven't seen it," she said.

Ashley Daye said she hopes for more funding towards education, primarily post-secondary.

"Not just for me, but for the schools, so it offers better opportunities, programs and technology to students," she said.

Tom Kwon, a 26-year-old environment engineering student, said although he is new to the city, he is still fascinated by the election.

"I find it interesting, even as a foreigner. But I am interested most in environmental issues," he told Metro, adding he isn't sure who he will vote for.

News in brief

COUNCIL They might become scenic tourist draws, and they might someday show up in Hollywood movies. Those were just two of the arguments that led city council to approve $25 million for a pair of pedestrian-only bridges over the Bow River, just west of Prince's Island Park, and at the west end of St. George's Island.

METRO CALGARY

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ROBIN KUNISKI/METRO CALGARY

Not discouraged by a long history of Conservative victories in Calgary West, independent candidate Kirk Schmidt kicked off his campaign Sunday.

Independent set for battle

NEIL MACKINNON
for Metro Calgary

Kirk Schmidt knows he's facing an entirely uphill climb.

Running as an independent in Calgary West against Conservative incumbent Rob Anders, who has won the riding in four consecutive elections and in 2006, by more than 24,000 votes, Schmidt said even in a Tory hotbed, there seems to be some appetite for change.

"In the talks I've had with community members, there are quite a few people out there who have some reservations, some concerns about the incumbent," Schmidt said.

Fiscally conservative, socially progressive, Schmidt's been preparing for this election since the final ballot was counted in 2006 trying to build broad base of support.

The biggest thing has been ensuring people that I'm not just throwing my name on a ballot," he said. "I've taken a leave of absence from work, I'm taking this seriously and it has just been a matter of getting that across to people."

University of Calgary political scientist David Stewart said independents have a nearly impossible task as local voters often consider the national picture where a vote for an independent translates into opting out of government.

"In a minority situation, a very tight minority, the role of an independent could be much more important, but in a majority, there's really nothing, they're vote is unnecessary," he said.

10-digit dialing hasn't shut Distress Centre
The Distress Centre reminds readers that the 2-1-1 information number remains operational and offers referral numbers free, 24-hours a day. **METRO CALGARY**

Report coming on HOV lanes

NEIL MACKINNON
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It won't be tomorrow, but high occupancy vehicle lanes may soon be coming to a Calgary street near you.

City council said yesterday they would draft up a report no later than January 2009 looking into the feasibility of the lanes, which Ald. John Mar said would enable greater mobility throughout the city while easing the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

"I'm not asking that we do this tomorrow," Mar said. "But I think we should at least get a report to look into it."

Transportation department general manager John Hubbell said city administration is already looking into the concept and there are questions around the definition of what Calgary will accept as a high occupancy number, suggesting three people per car.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

Choice city thoroughfares may get carpool lanes in the near future. A report on high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes is due back at council by January.

"I think we should at least get a report to look into it."
Ald. Jon Mar

"Some people are still going to drive to work no matter what we do, either by choice or the nature of their job," Hubbell said.

Hubbell also said the city will have to look into how it's going to enforce HOV lanes to ensure the proper vehicles are using them.

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Listeriosis death in New Brunswick

The New Brunswick Health Department has confirmed a woman with listeriosis has died in the province. A woman in her early 80s, who was a nursing home resident and who had listeriosis, died in a New Brunswick hospital, officials said yesterday. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

"The audience seemed shocked at first — the fan came out of nowhere."

Oasis concertgoer Ryan Markle speaking about a fan who attacked Noel Gallagher on stage while Oasis performed.

Attacked

A 47-year-old concert-goer has been charged with assault after the British band Oasis were attacked onstage in front of 25,000 fans Sunday night in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khadrs kick off public relations campaign

The notorious Khadr family has launched their own public relations campaign in an effort to quash their reputation as "Canada's First Family of Terrorism" and put the case of Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr on the federal election agenda.

TheKhadrLegacy.com went online yesterday as a press release quoting Khadr's sister Zaynab and was e-mailed to reporters.

"Our brother is being held in Guantanamo Bay based on the lies told by both the American and Canadian governments," she stated. "(A)n election is the perfect opportunity to tell those politicians that we are not going to be their bogeyman any longer."

questions remain

Zaynab Khadr and her mother Maha Elsamnah were vilified in Canada following a March 2004 CBC documentary entitled Al Qaeda Family. The story profiled Khadr's older brother Abdurahman, but featured interviews with his sister and mother where they spoke with ambivalence about the 9-11 attacks and criticized Canada's liberal laws.

U.S. Lt.-Cmdr. Bill Kuebler, Omar Khadr's military-appointed lawyer, said he believed the family's plea would have a negative impact.

"I share the extreme displeasure of most Canadians with Maha and Zaynab Khadr. Omar has specifically and repeatedly asked them to stop making public statements on his behalf — they don't represent him or his views," Kuebler said yesterday.

Omar Khadr

Khadr is scheduled to go on trial next month in Guantanamo for five war crimes, including murder for the death of U.S. Sgt. Christopher Speer. Khadr was captured in Afghanistan at the age of 15. Now turning 22 he has spent a third of his life in jail.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Looking for security in a new home?

BIKER GANGS Sometime in the not-so-distant future, the province of Ontario could be shopping for a buyer for a long-time biker clubhouse in Oshawa.

money

- $11,000 was found squirreled away in the building's walls has already been deposited in a fund for victims of crime.
- If the clubhouse is sold, the proceeds of the sale will also go to the victims of crime fund.

The modest bungalow that served as headquarters for the Hells Angels Oshawa chapter is now the property of the province, after a ruling by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice last week that declared it an "instrument of unlawful activity."

The home features steel reinforced doors, security cameras and the club's Death Head patch of a winged skull on the front door.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COLIN O'CONNOR/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Simmons Canada Inc. workers protest in front of the mattress plant in Brampton, Ont. after hearing of the closing of their plant yesterday.

Simmons factory closes its doors

JOBS Simmons Canada has abruptly closed its mattress factory in Brampton instead of resuming bargaining with about 150 striking workers.

Union negotiators had expected more contract talks yesterday in efforts to end a three-week walkout, but a senior Simmons official told them the company would be shutting down immediately and transferring production elsewhere.

other closures

- One of the major owners of Simmons Canada, Thomas H. Lee Equity Fund, has closed 11 auto-parts plants and eliminated 2,000 jobs recently.

Simmons, one of Canada's biggest bedding manufacturers, indicated it will continue to produce about 25 per cent of the mattress output of the Brampton plant at operations in Kirkland, Que., and Calgary. It will produce the remaining 75 per cent at operations in America.

Simmons president Paul Bognar said the effects of the strike have compromised the plant's economic viability. The plant, had been open for about 35 years. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No licence, no problem, drivers report indicates

LEGISLATION Gloria O'Neill's driver's licence was suspended as far back as 1978, when she was just 21. In 1984, it was suspended again.

Still forbidden to drive, she got a new licence under a different name.

When that, too, was suspended, she got a third.

11,000

The number of drivers a year who are caught driving after having their licences suspended.

Five years ago, after she dragged a pedestrian to his death in a crosswalk, a court banned her from driving for 10 years.

An average of 11,000 drivers a year are caught driving after losing their licences. But nearly five years after legislation was passed allowing police to automatically check whether someone renewing a licence plate has valid insurance, an auditor general's report shows the program is still not running.

"The Ministry of Transportation continues working with the Insurance Bureau of Canada on a proposal which will enable electronic verification," the ministry said in an e-mail.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SHOOTING Three schools in northwestern Toronto remained in lockdown yesterday after a young man was shot to death nearby. Five schools in total were locked down, but two were released in the afternoon.

RANSOM Kidnappers who abducted Alberta freelance journalist Amanda Lindhout in Somalia Aug. 23 demanded $2.5 million US for her release yesterday. Reporters Without Borders confirmed the ransom demand. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Who can vote?
You can vote if: You are a Canadian citizen; you are at least 18 years old on election day; establish proof of identity and address. For more information, see www.elections.ca/home.asp. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

Greens

Elizabeth May

May shut out of debates

TELEVISION Shut out of the national leaders' election debates, Green party Leader Elizabeth May says she'll sue to reverse what she called a sexist, anti-democratic decision by her political rivals and big TV broadcasters.

"Day 2 of the federal election campaign and democracy is taking a nose-dive," May said.

"This is anti-democratic, closed-door, back-room decision making by four national party leaders who are all men, and five television executives who are all men, to keep out the one woman leader of a federal political party and I don't think many Canadians will think that was fair," May told a media conference after learning of the decision via press release. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Conservatives

Harper appeals to middle class

B.C. Prime Minister Stephen Harper is using a forceful appeal to the middle class — and a targeted outreach to ethnic communities — to break into Canada's big cities, the long-held Liberal bastions.

Harper took his campaign strategy into the kitchen of a suburban Vancouver home yesterday and touted his party's help for middle-class families.

Harper noted Conservatives already do well in cities such as Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa and predicted it was only a matter of time before they enjoy similar success in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto, where the party was largely shut out in 2006. During his campaign stop, he charged that a Liberal government would jeopardize the gains given to Canadian families by his government, such as the child benefit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

35 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Double disaster for left

Palin's popularity provides Republican surge in U.S.

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin

It's nightmare time for Canadian liberals. They're looking at a potential disaster, not only here where trends show the Harper Conservatives moving toward a majority, but also in the United States, where a bible-thumping, gun-toting, war-loving hot mother is aborting, so to speak, the Democrats' chances of taking the White House.

It may be short-lived, but so far the Sarah Palin veep choice by John McCain is providing the Republicans with the surge they so desired. For the first time in months they now lead the Democrats in the polls.

It was just a while back when Barack Obama had Canadian liberals all aglow over what looked to be a certain takeover of the presidency.

Polls have shown Canadians favour Obama by a whopping 3-to-1 or 4-to-1 margin over the Republicans. It stands to reason. Canada is predominantly a country of the centre-left. Combine the support of the soft centre and left-side parties — Liberals, New Democrats, Greens, Bloc — and it constitutes about two-thirds of the population. A continent run by McCain/Harper is the last thing they want.

South of the border, Palin's resoundingly effective speech at the Republican convention turned the tide. Many were starting to feel McCain had make a huge blunder — until the inexperienced Alaskan governor took the podium. But she allayed fears. She was poised and, on the subject of Obama, devastatingly acerbic.

Sarah Palin

ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

If there is feminist outrage over her pre-Cambrian views it isn't manifesting itself. Why isn't Hillary Clinton ripping her to pieces? Will feminists set aside their core beliefs just because Palin is of their gender?

In an election as important as the American presidency, gender is important, but far more important is the candidate's beliefs.

While it's about damn time another woman is on a presidential ticket, Palin borders on being a zealot. She is an ideological affront to the majority of Canadians.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, right, meets with a voter yesterday as he walks to Dawson College with Liberal candidate for Westmount-Ville-Marie Marc Garneau, centre.

Dion targets guns

With the site of a gunman's murderous rampage as a backdrop, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion promised to strengthen gun laws to ensure that military assault weapons are banned.

"A new Liberal government will make our cities, our communities, and our schools safer by getting military assault weapons off our streets," Dion said at Dawson College in Montreal.

To talk about gun control, Dion came to the school where, in 2006, Kimveer Gill fatally shot student Anastasia De Sousa and wounded more than a dozen others before killing himself.

"Military assault weapons have no connection to hunting or sport shooting, and serve absolutely no purpose in our society. No one outside of the military needs these weapons and we would all be safer without them in Canada," Dion said.

Dion added that semi-automatic rifles with a legitimate connection to hunting or sport shooting would not be included in the prohibition.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New Democrats

Layton concerned with oilsands

ENVIRONMENT NDP Leader Jack Layton took his campaign to the Northwest Territories yesterday, saying he wants to alert Canadians to the environmental dangers posed by oilsands production.

There is a growing concern in the north that the huge oilsands production in Alberta is polluting both the air and the water. Some northern native communities have even blamed elevated cancer rates on the fouling of their water downstream from Fort McMurray, Alta.

Layton told a group of about 75 people yesterday that all Canadians need to know about the potential for environmental disaster in communities whose members once could drink from almost every creek, river and lake.

Tar sand deposits lie beneath 141,000 square kilometres of boreal forest and muskeg, almost all of it in Alberta.

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U.S. bombs militants in Pakistan

Missiles fired by U.S. drones killed 23 people, mostly relatives of a Taliban commander close to Osama bin Laden, in a region of Pakistan near the Afghan border yesterday, witnesses and intelligence officials said. Ten militants were killed in the strike. REUTERS

World

Too 'extreme' for Russia?

Prosecutors in Russia want to ban the award-winning satirical U.S. cartoon South Park, calling the series "extremist" after receiving viewer complaints, a spokeswoman said yesterday. The Russian Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith had asked prosecutors to ban South Park, pointed to an episode called Mr. Hankey's Christmas Classics, available at www.southparkstudios.com, as an example of religious extremism. REUTERS

News in brief

9-11 Al-Qaida has issued a video marking the Sept. 11 attacks, in which deputy group leader Ayman al-Zawahri accuses Iran of taking part in a Western "Crusader" war against Islam, Al Jazeera television said yesterday.

FRANCE A 59-year-old woman has given birth to triplets at a Paris hospital after seeking fertility treatment in Vietnam. It is illegal in France to provide fertility treatment to women who are no longer at an age when they can procreate naturally.

GEORGIA Russia agreed yesterday to completely withdraw its troops from Georgia's heartland within a month, but there was no commitment to scale back its military presence in two Georgian separatist regions. Georgia welcomed the deal as a "step forward", brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy during talks with Russian leader Dmitry Medvedev. REUTERS

O.J. jury selection starts

Jury selection began yesterday in the Las Vegas robbery and kidnapping trial of O.J. Simpson, and the judge told prospective panelists to put the former football star's 1990s murder trial out of their minds.

This trial centers on accusations that Simpson led the 2007 robbery of his own sports memorabilia from a Las Vegas hotel room.

"If you think you are going to punish Mr. Simpson for what happened in L.A. ... this is not the case for you," said Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass, according to an online Los Angeles Times report.

Simpson was charged in Los Angeles in the June 12, 1994, murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ron Goldman. He was acquitted after a sensational so-called "Trial of the Century" that transfixed much of the world.

JOHN LOCHER/REUTERS

O.J. Simpson and Clarence (C.J.) Stewart appear in court with their attorneys during the first day of jury selection for their trial at the Clark County Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Las Vegas case stems from accusations that Simpson, 61, led five accomplices in robbing a pair of sports collectors at gunpoint at the Palace Station hotel and casino.

He and a co-defendant, Clarence Stewart, could face life in prison if they are convicted on all the charges against him. REUTERS

West Cuba, Gulf oilfields brace for Ike

STORM Hurricane Ike blew through the Caribbean Sea toward western Cuba and the Gulf of Mexico oilfields yesterday after ripping the eastern side of the island with winds and rains that left a path of destruction.

State-run Cuban media reported widespread damage throughout the eastern provinces and showed videos of toppled trees, destroyed homes, downed power lines and flooded towns, swollen rivers and, along the coast, storm surge.

The Cuban weather service said Ike, which weakened yesterday to a Category 1 storm with 80-mile-per-hour winds, could regain strength over the 89-degree Fahrenheit waters of the Caribbean. REUTERS

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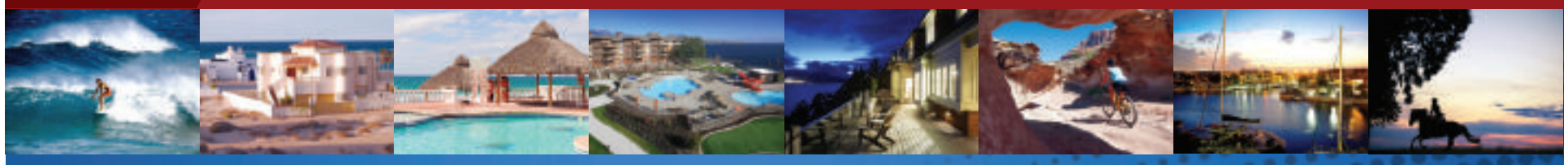

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Scientology faces legal battle in France
A French judge has ordered two departments and seven prominent members of the Church of Scientology in France to stand trial on charges of organized fraud, a judicial source said yesterday. The case could result in Scientologists being forced to stop their activities in France if found guilty. **REUTERS**

Russia **Training for vacation**

REUTERS/SERGEI REMEZOV

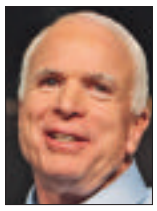
U.S. space tourist Richard Garriott attends a training session in the Star City space centre outside Moscow yesterday. Garriott, U.S. astronaut Michael Fincke and Russian cosmonaut Yury Lonchakov are set to visit the International Space Station next month.

McCain closes gap

Republican presidential candidate John McCain got a bounce in opinion polls from his convention and now runs even or slightly ahead of Democratic rival Barack Obama with eight weeks to go in the White House race.

McCain's surprise choice of conservative Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate also sparked a burst of grass-roots Republican enthusiasm, polls showed, an encouraging sign for party strategists worried about turnout in the Nov. 4 election.

Republicans have battled an unfavorable political environment all year amid a faltering economy and Republican President George W. Bush's unpopularity, but party officials around the country have reported a jump in volunteers and donations.


John McCain

"The change in enthusiasm is huge, that's what wins these things," Republican consultant Rich Galen said. "Given the political atmosphere, Obama did not want to be coming out of these conventions tied – he needed to come out with a lead."

Three polls taken since the Republican convention ended Thursday show McCain with a lead of one to four percentage points — within the margin of error — and two others show the race dead even.

Another poll released yesterday, by the Washington Post/ABC News, gave Obama a one-point edge among registered voters and McCain a two-point edge among likely voters — both within the margin of error. **REUTERS**

News in brief

FASCISM Italy's defence minister paid homage to pro-Nazi troops yesterday, the second senior conservative in two days to voice sympathy with fascism. Rome's mayor, former neo-Nazi youth leader Gianni Alemanno, caused controversy on Sunday by saying he "does not and never has" considered fascism to be "absolute evil."

INVESTIGATION Israeli police said on Sunday they wanted Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to face criminal charges in a corruption scandal driving him from office during peace talks with the Palestinians. Issuing a non-binding recommendation, police said they had evidence showing that Olmert illegally received money from a U.S. businessman. **REUTERS**

Three guilty in bomb plot

TRIAL Three Britons were found guilty yesterday of conspiracy to kill using homemade liquid bombs, but the jury failed to agree that they intended to blow up transatlantic airliners in an al-Qaida-style attack after departing London's Heathrow Airport.

After a five-month trial and more than 50 hours of deliberation, the 12-person jury found only three of the defendants — Abdulla Ahmed Ali, Assad Sarwar and Tanvir Hussain — guilty of a lesser charge of conspiracy to commit murder. **REUTERS**

Researcher discovers millions of dollars available to Canadians

by James Ryder
Financial Reporter

CALGARY – The old saying "there's no such thing as a free lunch" may be true, but according to researcher Chris Johnson there is "free money" available for things that cost a lot more than lunch!

Johnson, who lives with his wife in Surrey, BC, spent two years digging into hundreds of programs at all levels of government in Canada – federal, provincial and city – and he discovered that "free money" does indeed exist. He also discovered there are thousands of private foundations and other organizations who also make funds available.

"When I first began my research," says Johnson, "I wasn't sure that I would find much. But I soon found out there's free money available for all kinds of things."

Here are a few examples of what Johnson uncovered.

If you're a business owner or entrepreneur there is money available to start a business, expand a business, hire new employees, buy new equipment, buy new vehicles, develop new products, fund new research, plus countless other opportunities. There are grants, subsidies, zero interest loans, low interest loans and even loans you don't have to ever pay back.

If you want to get an education for yourself, your employees, a child or grandchild, there are thousands of scholarships, awards and bursaries to attend college, university or trade school. Plus there are hundreds of private foundations and organizations who also make funds available for education.

If you're a real estate investor, there is money available for down payments on houses and multi-family buildings, for closing costs, to renovate and upgrade existing properties, to help your tenants pay you, to pay your mortgages, plus many other programs.

Johnson showed me a huge stack of publications from all levels of government that outline the many programs available.

I asked him the obvious question. "If there's so much money available, why don't most Canadians know about it?"

Adrienne from Calgary received $4,229.07 for her education!

His answer was right to the point. "Governments are good at putting money into these programs, but they spend very little money on making Canadians aware these programs exist. Most are not even advertised. And many grants, bursaries and scholarships offered by private foundations are not even listed anywhere except in obscure catalogues."

Johnson has compiled his research and is now making it available in the program ***How to Unlock Canada's Free Money Vault™***. Included in the program is what Johnson calls the "special key" to free money success – knowing when and how to apply so that you get the money!

I'll take "free money" over a free lunch anytime.

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London Stock Exchange crippled by system outage
The London Stock Exchange suffered its worst systems failure in eight years yesterday, forcing the world's third largest share market to suspend trading for about seven hours. The exchange would not say whether volume was the issue. **REUTERS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Oil firms begin shutting output ahead of storm

STORM Energy companies began shutting production yesterday as Hurricane Ike threatened to cross the U.S. offshore oil patch before output shut by Hurricane Gustav last week could be restored.

The one-two punch from Gustav and Ike will likely carve deeply into U.S. energy inventories in the coming weeks, potentially raising fuel prices as the source of a quarter of domestic crude and 15 percent of its natural gas lies dormant for a fresh blow of high winds and waves. **REUTERS**

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RIM accused of poaching

Motorola sues BlackBerry-maker

Motorola is suing BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion for allegedly pilfering its employee ranks, the second time in three months it has turned to the courts to stifle competitive threats posed by departing workers.

The troubled handset-maker, which has failed to match the success of earlier models such as the Razr flip phone, appears to be having a tough time hanging on to key people as the battle for the booming smartphone market heats up between RIM, Apple Inc., Nokia Oyj and others.

Motorola claims in a lawsuit filed in the United States that Waterloo-based RIM has targeted at least 40 Motorola employees, who can't work for a competitor without revealing trade secrets, despite an agreement between the two rivals that was signed earlier this year.

Motorola is seeking more than $50,000 in damages. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Skills

- The suit alleges the Motorola employees targeted by RIM were ones with skills in touch-screen devices.
- RIM is believed to be working on its own touch-screen model, dubbed Thunder, to be released later this year.

Toyota sticks to single shift

RAV4 Toyota Motor Corp. will stick to a single shift at a new plant in Canada indefinitely due to soft sales, a spokesman said yesterday. The Woodstock, Ont., factory has the capacity to produce 150,000 RAV4 SUVs a year, but will build half that, he said. **REUTERS**

Ford eyes loans for technology

BACKING Ford Motor Co is ready to seek low-interest loans backed by the U.S. government for new fuel-saving technologies, CEO Alan Mulally said yesterday. His remarks came a day after the announcement of a government takeover of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

MEETING OPEC ministers, who meet today, voiced concern yesterday about swelling supplies after oil prices touched a five-month low, but they stopped short of calling for immediate action to cut supply.

RECALL General Motors will recall almost 300,000 Chevrolet HHR wagons, including many in Canada for the 2006 through 2008 model years, because of a problem with a storage bin latch. **REUTERS**

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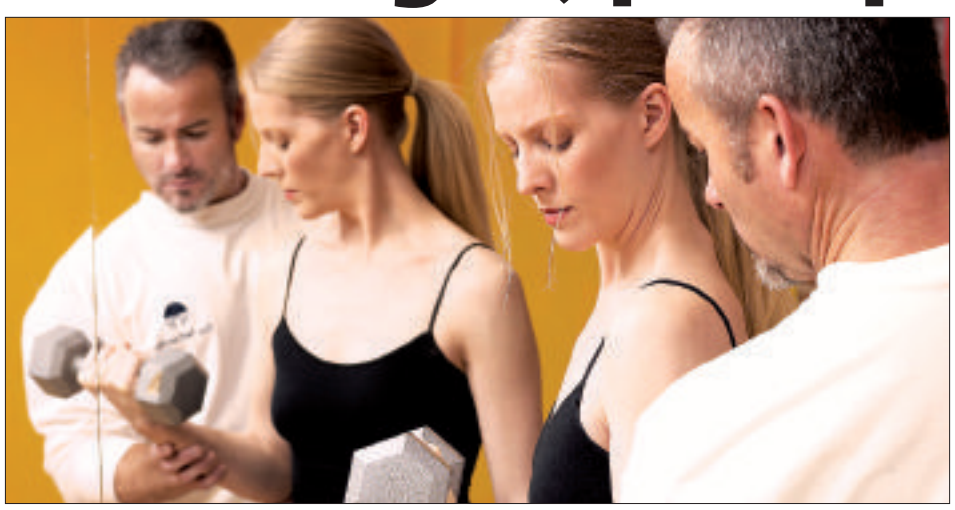

Ask your trainer if they offer a two-for-one special.

SmartCookies

smartcookies.com

One of our Smart Cookies decided this would be the year to kick it up a notch and get a personal trainer (yes, even Smart Cookies have personal trainers). In true Smart Cookie fashion, however, she did have to take on additional work to cover the costs of a personal trainer as it was not in her spending plan. We asked her to share some tips on saving with a personal trainer and then provide some options for those who aren't prepared to shell out the big bucks just yet, but still want to get the tight buns.

Buddy Up on Personal Trainers

"Gone are the days of renting Jane Fonda's latest VHS for $20 at your local video store. Go to youtube.com and in the search engine box enter the type of workout you'd like to try: Abs, Yoga, Pilates ... you name it! And the best part is — it's free!"

If you don't want to pay the hefty fee that comes with having a personal trainer ($50-$85 an hour) ask if they offer a two-for-one special. Most trainers are comfortable training two people (or more) at once. If you share with a friend and commit to helping each other out, you and your bank account will feel much better. But even if you don't hire a personal trainer you should still buddy up and make a pact to meet each other at the gym certain times every week. You will be more likely to strap on your sneakers and go if you know your friend is saving you a treadmill. For us, getting in shape (just like getting your finances in order) only works when you have the motivation of others who hold you accountable.

YouTube It

YouTube covers just about everything from how to cut open a pomegranate to how to change the oil on your car. So it only seems logical that they would show us how to get in shape. Gone are the days of renting Jane Fonda's latest VHS for $20 at your local video store. Go to youtube.com and in the search engine box enter the type of workout you'd like to try: Abs, Yoga, Pilates ... you name it! And the best part is — it's free!

Podcasts, Podcasts, Podcasts

Since many of us have an iPod, it's about time we figured out what else this little gadget can do besides play music. We just tested out this program online called "Couch-to-5K". Not only does it allow you to follow the program for free, it also has corresponding podcasts you can download to your iPod and listen to the tutorials. And hey, even if you aren't training for a 5K run, it certainly gets you working out on a regular basis. (ullreys.com/robert/Podcasts/)

If you have questions or comments for the Smart Cookies, please e-mail *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

Allan Small gives readers an update on the current market. Read his column at metronews.ca

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Check with student services at your college or university for help with a part-time job search while you study. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Surviving school costs

Q My son starts university this week. We have used the RESPs we started several years ago. These funds will pay for less than two years of tuition. We are not sure how we will afford to buy his books and other living costs at the moment. How do other parents do it?
Sondeep and Suni

A reader wonders how other parents manage to cover all of the expenses of post-secondary education.

MoneyMatters

A Starting College or University is another chapter of life for our kids. They must be responsible but may at times be irresponsible. As classes begin, parents can breathe a sigh of relief: "We did it!"

However, the financial stress may not have disappeared when the kids do. Most parents are unable to afford the $6,000 tuition cost, $800 for books and $9,000 to $12,000 for boarding and meals without some prior planning and help.

Parents that value higher education should do some early planning:

- Start a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) as early as possible
- Apply for the various scholarships offered by the universities and government
- Less "well-to-do" parents should apply for bursaries
- Attend a university close to home
- Have the kids save by not staying in residence
- Kids can work part-time at university but do not lose focus of why they are there
- Design a student financial budget: A simple "where is the money coming from and where it will go?"
- Students should claim moving cost, rent paid, tuition, education and book tax credits.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

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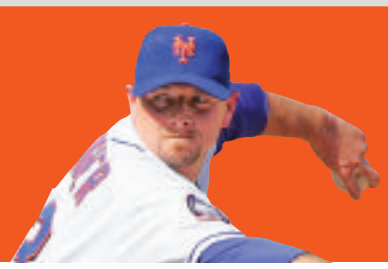
MLB

Last night's game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Chicago White Sox was postponed due to rain. The game will be made up as part of a day/night doubleheader today. The rained-out game will begin at 12:05 p.m., with the nightcap starting at 6:11 p.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Mets closer needs surgery

New York Mets closer Billy Wagner, left, will need season-ending surgery on his left elbow and will be out of action for a full calendar year, according to the team's website. An MRI exam taken yesterday revealed that Wagner, who has 27 saves this season, has suffered a torn MCL in the elbow.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Ticats fire coach after 2-8 start

CFL The Hamilton Tiger-Cats fired head coach Charlie Taaffe yesterday after a dismal 2-8 start to their season.

"After a thorough evaluation, we felt that a change was necessary in the best interests of the Tiger-Cats," said general manager Bob O'Billovich.

Offensive coordinator Marcel Bellefeuille has been named interim coach for the Ticats, who were 5-23 over less than two seasons under Taaffe.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

YorkReport

Marty York

Will return...

Fantastic five-peat for Federer

Swiss superstar claims fifth straight U.S. Open title with win over Murray

Roger Federer won his fifth U.S. Open in a row by beating Briton Andy Murray in the men's final last night and said he did not plan on stopping with his career haul of 13 grand slam titles.

"One thing for sure, I'm not going to stop at 13," the Swiss maestro said courtside after celebrating his first grand slam triumph of the year by falling to his knees, rolling over on to his back and covering his eyes with his hands.

The 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 victory put 27-year-old Federer one grand slam crown away from matching the record total collected by American Pete Sampras.

"It definitely feels great. This is a very special moment in my career," Federer said.

"One thing for sure, I'm not going to stop at 13"
Roger Federer

"I had a couple of tough grand slams this year. finishing in semifinals and two finals, one epic at Wimbledon," said the Swiss, who reached the last four at the Australian Open before losing the French and Wimbledon finals to current world No. 1 Rafael Nadal.

"So to take this one home is incredible. It means the world to me."

Federer became the first man to win five consecutive U.S. titles since American Bill Tilden in 1924.

His run in New York after previously stringing together five straight Wimbledon titles from 2003 to 2007 made him the only player to have won five in a row at two different slams.

The 21-year-old Murray, who was playing in his first grand slam final, saluted second seed Federer.

"I had a great tournament," Murray said before the trophy presentation.

"I came up against, in my opinion, the best player ever to play the game. I got the better of him the last two times we played. He definitely set the record straight today, so congratulations. Well done." REUTERS

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Roger Federer of Switzerland kisses the trophy after defeating Andy Murray of the United Kingdom to win the 2008 U.S. Open men's championship match yesterday in New York.

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SCOREBOARD

MLB

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Baltimore 14 Cleveland 3
Boston 3 Tampa Bay 0
Detroit 14 Oakland 8
Toronto at Chicago White Sox — ppd. (rain)
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati 5 Milwaukee 4
Houston 3 Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 8 Florida 6
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego
Arizona at San Francisco

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto at Chicago White Sox, 12:05 (Gm 1)
Tampa Bay at Boston, 5:05
Oakland at Detroit, 5:05
Cleveland at Baltimore, 5:05
Kansas City at Minnesota, 6:10
Toronto at Chicago White Sox, 6:11 (Gm 2)
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 8:05
Texas at Seattle, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Florida at Philadelphia, 5:05
Colorado at Atlanta, 5:10
Washington at N.Y. Mets, 5:10
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 6:05
Pittsburgh at Houston, 6:05
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 6:15
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 8:05
Arizona at San Francisco, 8:15

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pedroia Bos	585	111	193	.330
Bradley Tex	379	74	124	.327
Mauer Min	463	87	151	.326
Kinsler Tex	518	102	165	.319
Ordonez Det	492	62	157	.319
Youkilis Bos	481	83	151	.314
Huff Bal	527	89	165	.313

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pujols StL	462	88	166	.359
Jones Atl	408	73	146	.358
Berkman Hou	497	106	162	.326
Holliday Col	493	99	160	.325
Lee Hou	436	61	137	.314
Winn SF	515	77	160	.311
Theriot ChiC	523	76	162	.310

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	2	0	16
Edmonton	6	4	0	12
CALGARY	6	4	0	12
B.C.	5	5	0	10

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	7	3	0	14
Toronto	4	6	0	8
Winnipeg	2	8	0	4
Hamilton	2	8	0	4

WEEK 12

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Winnipeg at Toronto, 5
Montreal at CALGARY, 8

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Hamilton at Edmonton, 5
Saskatchewan at B.C., 8

NFL

WEEK 1

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Green Bay 24 Minnesota 19
Denver at Oakland

BASEBALL

GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (BEST OF FIVE)

TONIGHT'S GAME
Orange County at CALGARY, 7:05

TOMORROW'S GAME
Orange County at CALGARY, 7:05

Brady officially out for rest of NFL season

NFL New England Patriots quarterback and two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady will miss the remainder of the season with an injury to his left knee, the team said yesterday.

"We feel badly for Tom about the injury," coach Bill Belichick told a news conference. "You hate to see anyone go down. Nobody's worked harder or done more for this team than Tom has. So it's a tough setback for him."

Brady

Brady, 31, limped off the field during the first quarter of Sunday's 17-10 season-opening victory over the Kansas City Chiefs when he stepped up into the pocket and was hit by safety Bernard Pollard.

Matt Cassel, who replaced Brady against the Chiefs and led the Pats to victory, will start on Sunday amid multiple media reports that New England is shopping for another QB. REUTERS

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Sports in brief

NFL Aaron Rodgers helped put the ghosts of Brett Favre behind the Green Bay faithful, at least for another week, by leading the Packers over Minnesota 24-19 last night in the season-opener for both teams. Rodgers was 18-of-22 for 178 yards and a touchdown while also running for 35 yards and a score in his first NFL start for the Packers.

CYCLING Seven-time champion Lance Armstrong will come out of retirement and compete in next year's Tour de France, the cycling magazine VeloNews reported yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brain protein holds key to fertility
Scientists have discovered the crucial ovulation-triggering role played by a small protein molecule in the brain, a finding that could hold the key to new therapies for infertility. REUTERS

Health

Care for skin and hair naturally

Be gentle on your skin and the environment with Organic Surge, a UK line of natural skin and hair care products, now available in Canada. The line comes in a variety of natural scents and features shower gels, shampoos, conditioners, intensive hair treatments, hand washes and hand lotions from $4.99 to $9.99 (sold exclusively at Shoppers Drug Mart stores). What's more, the sale of these items help support childcare programs in African communities. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

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My love/hate for Internet

HineSight

Anne Hines

Over the past few years, everything that could possibly be written about the frustrations of using the Internet has been written. All I could do now would be to rant about things that have already been said before. So, I'm going to do that.

This past week, I've come across two newspaper articles highlighting downsides of using the net. The first was about a woman in Eastern Canada who supposedly threatened to hold her Internet repairman hostage in her house until he got her connection working. This woman's actions shocked me. I had to ask, "Why didn't I think of that?"

The second article wondered if e-mail and text messaging are making us less sophisticated communicators. To this, I say, "well, duh."

Mostly, we see new technology as a good thing. Having the net means more leisure time. I was free to read these newspaper articles, for instance, because I was spending two hours on hold waiting to speak to my server's tech support.

When it comes to finding information, the net has

Without the net, I would have had to pick up the phone and ask someone.

what we need when we need it. Yesterday, I was able to find the mailing address of my daughter's university residence simply by locating the main page, checking 18 links that went nowhere, entering 40 search word versions of "mail, address, residence, give-me-the-info-or-I'll-scream" and after 45 minutes, voila! Without the net, I would have had to pick up the phone and ask someone.

But, the question these articles raised is, "Is it worth it?"

It may be one of the key inventions of our time, but the Internet is also a huge source of frustration for many.

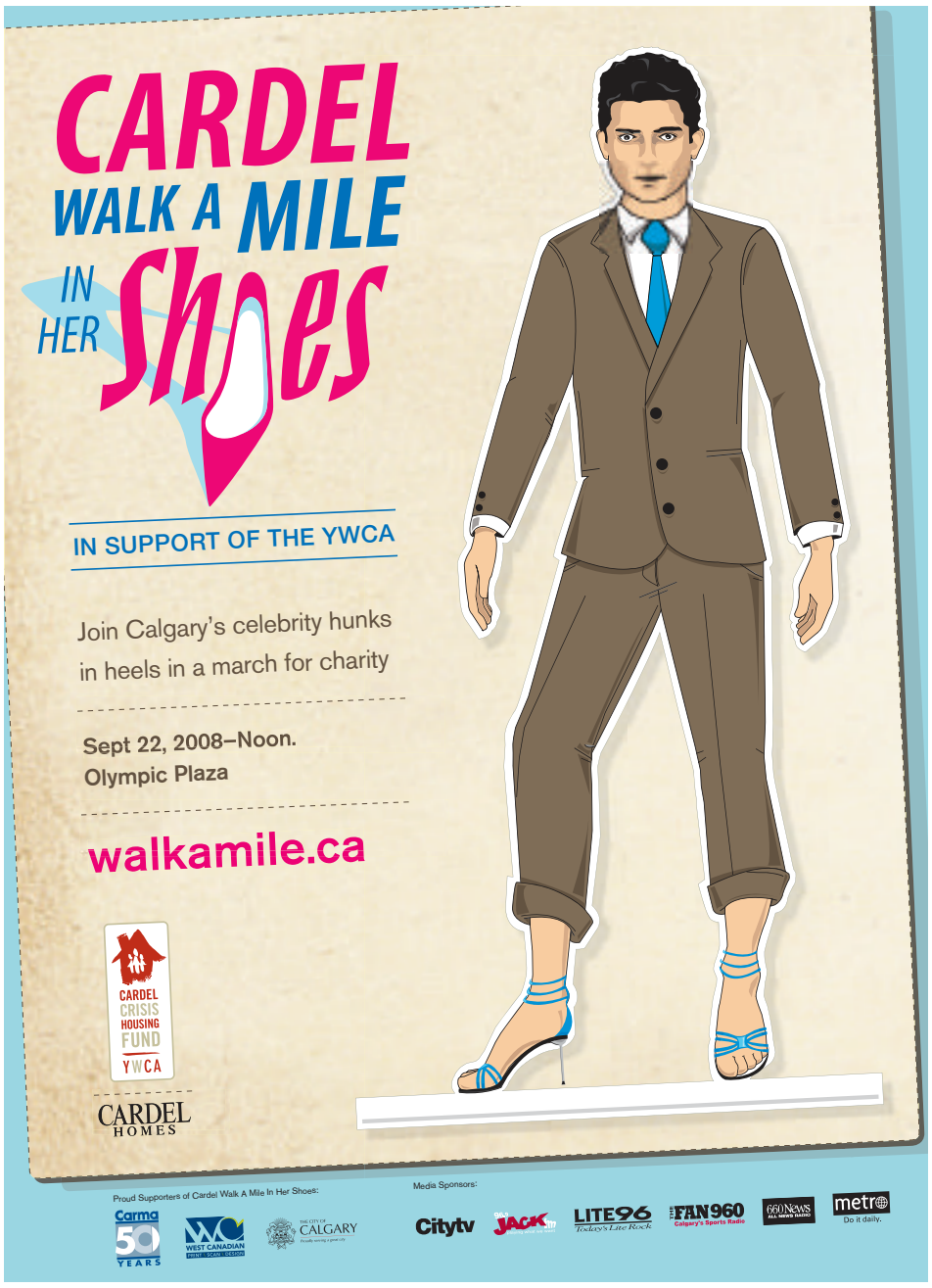
This isn't a new question. Take, for example, one of the key inventions of human kind. The pointy stick. Previously, our ancestors heading out after woolly mammoth favoured the "hit it with a rock" method. This was not very efficient, but better than the "taunt it until it falls over" tactic that came before that.

Still, the appearance of this wonder-tool must have raised concerns. Would the practice of trying to down large animals with a blunt stick be lost (the answer: "Hopefully, yes.")? Would the pointy stick be used only for good and not evil?

The fact is no innovation in history has ever been welcomed without concerns and misgivings. The only exceptions to this are of course indoor plumbing and the beer fridge.

So, considering it carefully, I would say that the truth about technology is this: it has good points and bad. Making it exactly like everything else.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



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Butler would love to revist 300
Actor Gerard Butler would love to revisit his hit movie 300, but has no idea how a prequel or a sequel would work. The star played Spartan king Leonidas in the 2006 hit. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Last Pharaoh
Will Smith is reportedly set to fulfill one of his biggest ambitions — playing Egyptian pharaoh Taharqa on the big screen. Smith has been cast as the ancient ruler in The Last Pharaoh. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

DVD picks

Baby Mama
Director: Michael McCullers
Rating: PG

TINA FEY plays a woman who turns her focus from career to motherhood. But, when she discovers Mother Nature is against her, Fey's character, Kate Holbrook, hires slobby Angie Ostrowiski (Amy Poehler) to be a surrogate mom. DVD includes deletes scenes, an alternate ending, a "making of" featurette.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

MoreOnline metronews.ca

In brief

CASTING Girls Gone Wild founder Joe Francis has been dropped from Donald Trump's hit reality TV show Celebrity Apprentice, imdb.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mixtape for Tricky fans

British artist revisits his roots

IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Canada

For a spell in the mid-1990s, Portishead, Massive Attack and Tricky were considered England's leaders of trip hop: downtempo electronica that arose from the country's hip hop and house scenes.

That Tricky's newest album Knowle West Boy, in North American stores today, arrives in the same year that Portishead returns with its latest offering, Third, and Massive Attack works on new material for a future release should come as complete coincidence — and not, as the artist a.k.a. Adrian Thaws sees it, a trip hop revival.

"Those people followed my first solo album, Maxinquaye, in 1995 and then it formed into some kind of movement back then," says Tricky, a former Massive Attack member. "I was even told I created trip hop.

"Young artists have to be careful when getting involved in a movement. Because once it's over, you're over. It's safer not to be part of anything like that."

In the ensuing years, Tricky maintained a somewhat lower profile living in New York and Los Angeles while collaborating with the likes of Björk, Alanis Morissette, Nelly Furtado, Elvis Costello, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Tool. Although he released another half-dozen albums, none have matched Maxinquaye's super-praised success — prompting David Bowie to pen a 2,000-word fan-worship story for British music mag Q.

Knowle West Boy, the new album from Tricky, is now in stores.

"That was very weird for me," Tricky, now 40, says. "I never met the guy. But here I was in London picking up a magazine that had him writing about me. It blew me away — very surreal."

Tricky admits he never dealt with the whole fame thing very well and, since leaving Britain in the 1990s, probably partied a tad more than he should have. But much of his own turmoil stemmed from his struggles with candida — a condition best described as extreme yeast and sugar intolerance.

"It messes up your skin as well as your mind. It causes depression, makes you very angry and because of the way I treated certain people, it really screwed up my relationships," explains Tricky, adding that the condition is now kept under control through a strict diet and exercise regimen.

"Young artists have to be careful when getting involved in a movement. Because once it's over, you're over. It's safer not to be part of anything like that." Tricky

Knowle West Boy finds Tricky lyrically revisiting the Bristol, England, neighbourhood where he grew up through a mélange of blues, ska, hip hop, post-punk and rock.

"It's like a mix tape thank-you to all my fans," Tricky says. "It's sort of my way of giving back to the people."

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TV dreams
Singer LeAnn Rimes dreams of being approached about starring in the hit drama Gossip Girl, because her husband is obsessed with it. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Fringe: Here today, but likely gone tomorrow

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Out there: Fringe, one of the most eagerly anticipated new shows of the season, debuts tonight on CTV, the A Channel, Access (in Alberta) and Fox, and creator J.J. Abrams expressed his anxiety about his latest work in an interview with the Onion's A.V. Club last week.

"It's a cocktail of excited for people to see it, terror that no one will watch it, and relief that something I've been working on for so long will finally be out there," he said.

Abrams is the man behind Lost, Alias and Felicity, and the director of Cloverfield, Mission: Impossible III and the next Star Trek movie. He's at what no one would dispute is the top of his game in Hollywood, and Fringe is exactly what his audience expects — an eerie procedural thriller about shadowy government agencies, sinister conspiracies and nutjob quack science, wrapped in feature movie production values.

The show stars Anna Torv as an FBI agent sucked into a vortex of weird crap, like a plane full of passengers with their skin in puddles on the floor, and Joshua Jackson plays the ne'er-do-well son of a mad genius she has to spring from the madhouse to help her find out who's turning people into Jell-O. And yes, you can be excused if you're thinking X-Files.

Abrams has only written two episodes, according to IMDB.com, and his Star Trek duties have kept him out of the director's chair, but he told the Onion that he wants to direct "maybe a season finale or a season opener or something. I've been wanting to do it since the pilot. We have great directors working on Fringe, but when someone else directs something that you're involved with, it's always their vision, and the director in my head is definitely wanting to get involved."

"Based on the debut episode, Abrams might want to get involved a bit earlier."

Based on the debut episode, Abrams might want to get involved a bit earlier. After the airliner opening, the pace dissolves like Alka Seltzer, despite the breakneck introduction of characters and plot points.

The dialogue is dreadful, and Torv and Jackson's delivery don't help sell it, and considering that Fringe is on axe-happy Fox, Abrams had better move fast if he wants to get his shot.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

U.S. Judge stops publication of unofficial Potter reference book

BOOKS A U.S. judge yesterday halted publication of an unofficial encyclopedic companion to the popular Harry Potter book series in a copyright case author J.K. Rowling argued would threaten other authors.

Judge Robert Patterson in U.S. District Court in Manhattan wrote an opinion that said independent U.S. book publisher RDR Books "had failed to establish an affirmative defense of fair use"and that publication of The Harry Potter Lexicon, which was written by a Harry Potter fan, should not proceed.

DANIEL BARRY/GETTY IMAGES

J.K. Rowling outside court in New York City this April.

The ruling said Warner Brothers Entertainment Inc and Rowling had established copyright infringement of the Harry Potter series and two companion books, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them and Quidditch Through the Ages.

The British author and Warner Bros sued RDR Books, which planned to publish the lexicon, a 400-page reference book written by Steve Vander Ark, based on his fan Web site, *hp-lexicon.org*..Lawyers for RDR Books could not immediately be reached for comment on yesterday's ruling. In court in April, Rowling, estimated by the Sunday Times to be worth about $1 billion US, said she was outraged her work was considered to be fair game because it was so popular. **REUTERS**

Mamma Mia! grabs top spot at foreign box office

FILM The ABBA-inspired musical romance Mamma Mia! grabbed the No. 1 spot at the weekend foreign box office for the first time, grossing an estimated $15 million US from 39 markets.

The adaptation of the stage hit opened at No. 2 in South Korea with $5.5 million, and has now earned $280.1 million internationally to become the fifth-biggest movie of the year. I

The Dark Knight, which had been No. 1 for a total of four weeks, slipped to No. 2 with $11.8 million from 62 markets. The total for the Batman sequel rose to $437.2 million.

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor followed at No. 3 with $11.6 million, pushing its overseas total to $255.4 million.

China was the big driver as the film, starring Beijing-born Jet Li, opened at No. 1 with $7.9 million. **REUTERS**

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CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
9/9/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Supernanny		Fringe "Pilot" (N)			Hole in Wall	Help TV
	243	317	3 CFCN	eTalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		Fringe "Pilot" (N)			eTalk Idol	News (N)
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	News	News	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wipeout (N)		Wipeout (N)		Primetime
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	The Tudors (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 "Lucky Strike" (N)		Big Brother 10 (N)		In Plain Sight (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged "Pilot" (N)		Biography "Matt Damon"		NY-Hollywood	Friends	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	La Facture (N)	Providence La police. (N) (SC)		Roxy (N) (SC)	Filantes	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
primetime	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		Big Brother 10 (N)		Fashion Rocks (N)		
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		The Brain Fitness Program			Alone in the Wilderness (DVS)			Our Destiny
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Wal-Mart Nation		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Wal-Mart Natn
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	America's Got Talent				Law/Ord SVU
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Fringe "Pilot" (N)			Hole in Wall	News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	Privileged "Pilot" (N)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	(6) MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Chicago White Sox.				SportsCentre		Boxing Friday Night Fights. (HDTV)		
	408	418	27 net	World's Toughest Cowboy		World Combat League		Red Bull: Air	Week-Baseball	Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports
	410	403	30 SCORE	Poker: Canadian Open		Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage
	411	457	44 OLN	Angry Planet	Surf Patrol	Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman
	417	406	48 SPEED	Low Life	SuperCars	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Low Life
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	World of Quest	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	American Dad
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Country Music Awards		CMT at the 2008 CCMA's (N)		Canadian Country Music Awards				CMT-CCMA's
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	To Be Announced		Fashion Rocks (N)				News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Coleen's Real Women		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Good Naked
	521	560	24 TLC	Mystery Diagnosis (HDTV)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Shocking Story		Mystery Diagnosis (HDTV)		Med. Examiner
	603	561	25 FOOD	HEAT-McEwan	HEAT-McEwan	Top Chef "High Steaks"		Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		HEAT-McEwan
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Cleaner (HDTV) (N)		The Cleaner (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	Wife Swap "JoJo and Dawn"		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Shield (N)
	601	562	33 SLICE	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Plastic-Perfect	Matchmaker	Newlywed	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Plastic-Perfect
	-	633	34 ENC2	*Uncut Gem*	(7:45) Filmography		Filmography	*Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot* (1992, Action)			*Spies Like Us* (1985, Comedy)	
	520	505	35 DISC	Smash Lab		After the Catch (N)		Daily Planet		Smash Lab		After the Catch
	620	523	36 BRAVO	To Dublin With Love		Celtic Roots	Irish Music	Law & Order		Without a Trace		*Mi Vida Loca*
	294	650	40 WPCH	MLB Baseball		Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Frasier	*The Specialist* ★★ (1994, Action)		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
	-	539	42 TCM	*The Thomas Crown Affair*		*Dead Heat on a Merry-Go-Round* ★★★ (1966, Crime Drama)				*Topkapi* ★★★★ (1964, Suspense)		
	628	584	43 SPIKE	*Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back* ★★★★ (1980, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill.						CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	The Worst Jobs in History		NCIS "Witch Hunt"		The Worst Jobs in History		Tony's Law		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Comic-Con-fidential		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Lost "Pilot" (Part 2 of 2)		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *The Magnificent Seven* (1960)				(8:45) *The Great Escape* ★★★★ (1963, War) Steve McQueen, James Garner.				
	619	525	49 TROP	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		The Stagers	Green Force	Holmes on Homes		Dirty Business	Outside	Colin-Justin
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 CLT	Missing Link		Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy "Kilt Trip"		Killer Next Door		Missing Link
	269	350	93 APTN	News		Closer-Home	Great Towns	Wapos Bay	Rez Rides	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing	First Nation
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	The Land	Daughters-Law	Officina Italian	Qui si Parla	In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz
	571	581	100 MMM	Listed (Part 1 of 2)		Rock the Cradle		Party of Five		Fleetwood Mac -- Rumours		Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	Instant Star	Instant Star	Instant Star	Instant Star	The Shift		Pimp My Ride	Technical Diff.	disBand
	581	566	102 MTV	Making the Band 4		From G's to Gents		MTV Live	After	Making the Band 4		G's to Gents

critics' corner

Fringe
It's not "The X-Files," but this new series from J.J. Abrams of "Lost" fame should appeal to fans of Mulder and Scully. Like "Lost," this one starts with an airplane — only this one didn't crash. It landed at Boston's Logan Airport with everyone aboard mysteriously dead. FBI Special Agent Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv) investigates with the help of a brilliant, institutionalized scientist (John Noble) and his son (Joshua Jackson). Lance Reddick also stars. 9 PM on CFCN ACCESS

Live at the Rehearsal Hall
Fresh from being awarded a spot on Canada's Walk of Fame, singer-songwriter k.d. lang takes the stage in this new episode, performing songs from her most recent album, "Watershed." Released in February, it's her first collection of original material since "Invincible Summer" in 2000 and features the single "I Dream of Spring." 6 PM on BRAVO

Dancing baby

Dancing with the Stars pro Tony Dovolani and his wife, Lina welcomed a boy and a girl, Adrian Driton Dovolani and Adriana Dovolani early yesterday at a hospital near their Connecticut home. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Watts prefers women

PEOPLE Actress Naomi Watts prefers filming love scenes with women, because she feels no "sexual tension" with them, imdb.com reports.

Watts, who shared a same-sex kiss with Laura Harring in 2001 movie Mulholland Drive, insists she is more at ease filming intimate scenes with women than men.

"The easiest sex scene I have done was in Mulholland Drive. That's because it was with another woman," she says. "There was no awkwardness and there was no sexual tension."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's twins for Wentz, Simpson, pal says

CHILDREN Ashlee Simpson is reportedly expecting twins with husband Pete Wentz, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 23-year-old singer and her Fall Out Boy rocker beau are set to welcome two babies into the world later this year, according to Pete's musician friend Tyga.

"Pete and Ashlee are having twins. They're really happy," hip-hop star Tyga told gossip website E! Online.

This is not the first time it has been claimed the couple are expecting two bundles of joy.

In June, Pete, 29, accidentally referred to the baby as "them" during a radio interview, causing fans worldwide to speculate Ashlee is carrying twins.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Doherty pines for Moss

PEOPLE Pete Doherty still loves Kate Moss, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Babyshambles rocker, who split from the supermodel more than a year ago, realizes he will never win Moss back but admits he would be overcome if she ever attempted a reconciliation.

"It's over," he said. "But whether or not I'm over it, I'm not sure. It's so hard talking about someone you love after you have split up.

"It's painful to rake up those old emotions. Today I'll say I'm over it but if she walked in and shouted, 'Let's go,' I don't really know what I'd do.

"I'd go, but not with her. I would just go and cry somewhere. It's over. It's gone."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sparks flies after Brand makes purity joke

MTV AWARDS Russell Brand angered American Idol champ Jordin Sparks when he made fun of purity rings at Sunday's 2008 MTV Video Music Awards, usmagazine.com reports. During his opening monologue, Brand (a confessed former sex addict) repeatedly joked about the Jonas Brothers' purity rings, saying they should take advantage of their celeb status to get lucky. Before introducing T.I., Sparks — who has been open about wearing a purity ring — slammed the comedian for making the remark. "I just wanna say, it's not bad to wear a promise ring because not every guy and a girl wants to be a slut, OK?" she told the audience. Brand later clarified his joke.

"I didn't meant to take it lightly," he said. Later, he added, "Promise rings, I'm well up for it. (But) a bit of sex, it never hurt anybody."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney mad at mom

FAMILY RIFT Britney Spears is said to be "furious" with her mother, Lynne, after she detailed her daughter's past in her memoir, Through the Storm, Page-Six.com reports. The book blames all of Britney's problems on her daughter's former managers. Spears — who already considered her mother a siphon on her purse — is "upset" about the book, sources said, especially when she feels Lynne herself caused so many of her problems and issues. Spears is now only talking to her father, Jamie, who, as her conservator and guardian, has cleaned up her affairs and put his daughter back on the straight and narrow.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Wedding bells for Bedingfield

MARRIAGE Natasha Bedingfield is ready to walk down the aisle, People.com reports.

The pop singer, 26, just got engaged to her boyfriend Matthew Robinson. "It just happened," she said. "But I am so excited, and it happened in New York. And I want to share it with the world.

She added: "We haven't thought about a date. We're just celebrating." I'm the luckiest girl in the world."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Mills reneged on charity?

MONEY Heather Mills may have failed to hand over a multi-million dollar charity donation, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The former model vowed to give "a large majority" of her $42-million divorce payment from Sir Paul McCartney to the Adopt-A-Minefield organization, of which she is a patron, but charity sources claim they haven't received anything.

"They have waited in vain for their millions. She's had plenty of time," a source said. Mills made the donation pledge in 2006, during divorce proceedings from the former Beatles star. "Around 80 per cent of my money goes to charity," she also added in an interview last year. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Back to school for Turlington

PEOPLE Former supermodel Christy Turlington is to turn her back on fashion and head to college, imdb.com reports.The one-time catwalk queen is planning to study maternal and child health at Columbia University, according to the New York Daily News. Turlington, who has two children with actor husband Ed Burns, is passionate about maternal care and is an ambassador for humanitarian organization Care (Christian Action Research and Education).

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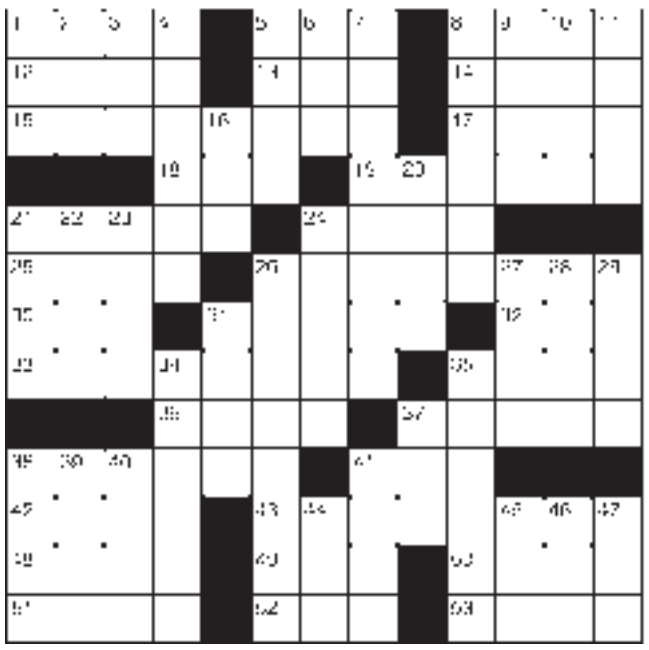
Boycotting his own show
Lost star Alan Dale reportedly stopped watching his own show during its third season because he "got sick" of its repetitive script and outlandish storylines. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

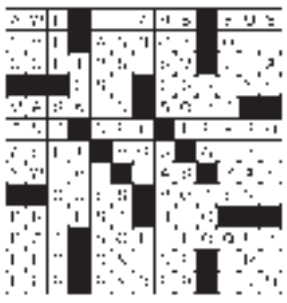
1 Knock
2 "— Town"
3 Consumed
4 Multicoloured
5 Ethereal
6 Japanese pond carp
7 Huge boa
8 False
9 Grad
10 Sidewalk edge
11 Hollywood clashers
16 Rowboat need
20 Colonial sewer
21 Wheel connector
22 Herr's wife
23 Pack down
24 Spirit in a bottle
26 Jeff Probst's show
27 Raise up
28 Busy with
29 Mideast gulf
31 Baby horse
34 Wellness
35 "Heavens!"
37 Witticism
38 Saharan
39 Sax-playing Simpson
40 Kesey and Olin
41 Con job
44 "— Got a Secret"
45 Caviar, essentially
46 11-Down counterparts
47 Request

Find today's answer and play more games online at metronews.ca

Crossword across

1 Wander
5 Alias abbr.
8 Wear a rut in the rug
12 Ford or Lincoln
13 Charged bit
14 Punch
15 South African city
17 Franc replacement
18 Deposit
19 Hansel and Gretel's trail
21 Subsequently
24 Acceptable
25 MRI forerunner
26 Brain's stimulus receptors
30 Felon's flight
31 Money
32 Conclude
33 Happiness, plus
35 Partner
36 Roof overhang
37 Long-popular comedian Cohen
38 High-pH chemical
41 Boar's companion
42 Cambodian money
43 Capital of British Columbia
48 "— It Romantic?"
49 Eggs
50 Fishing gear
51 Morse symbol
52 Sleep phenom
53 Dilbert's place

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Don't make a fool of anyone. An analyst forces you to detach yourself from a grouch. Someone is using you as a scapegoat.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Doubt is cast on a bad decision. Stay home and ponder your life, if a wicked statement is made. Insurmountable obstacles will be conquered.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You'll become a force to be reckoned with. An adventure causes a discussion to take place. A potential partner is ready and willing.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Let go when hurt feelings run through your mind. Refuse to underestimate your power. A stroke of luck leads to excitement.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
The countdown to a disagreement begins. It's time to be bold with an incompetent man. An alliance takes on an exciting importance.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A cherished leader can cause a revolution. A buddy's need for security is obvious. Refuse to waste your time with fools.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A new friend brings about a change in direction. Be passionate about your faith in humanity. You can ask for favours from a relative.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Someone will decide what's best for you. A companion will inspire thoughts of generosity. Don't fall in love with a selfish person.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
You'll dream of being with a compassionate person. A caller is too animated for comfort. Unusual words will cause brief difficulties.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
An agreement may cause you to be feared. Be happy about being at the controls. Your actions may lead to an insight.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A chaotic situation will clear up. Take someone for a walk if you want to talk. Pushy people have lost their former charm.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Take command in a disputed matter. A dedicated person will experience neglect and spoil certain plans. Love strengthens your commitment.

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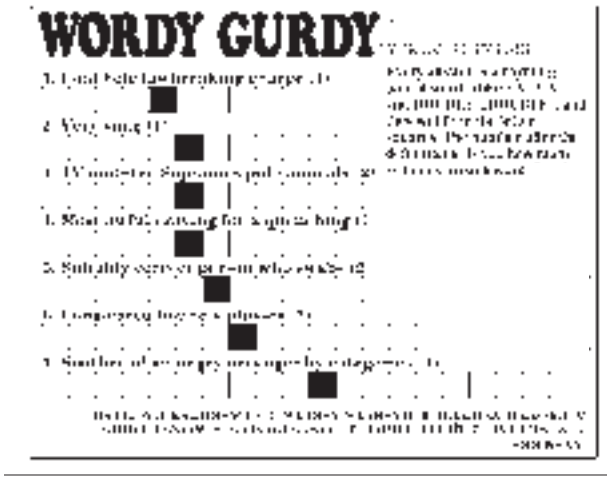

This day in history

SEPT. 9, 1543: Mary Stuart, at nine months old, is crowned "Queen of Scots" in the central Scottish town of Stirling.
SEPT. 9, 1776: The Continental Congress officially names their new union of sovereign states the United States.
SEPT. 9, 1914: World War I: The creation of the Canadian Automobile Machine Gun Brigade, the first fully mechanized unit in the British Army.
SEPT. 9, 1922: Greek-Turkish war has ended with Turkish victory over the Greeks.
SEPT. 9, 1956: Elvis Presley appears on The Ed Sullivan Show for the first time.
SEPT. 9, 1933: The Palestine Liberation Organization officially recognizes Israel as a legitimate state.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sudoku

			4	5		9	7	1
				7			3	6
		6				2		
1			5				8	
		9				4		
	8				3			2
		4				8		
2	9			6				
3	7	5		1	8			

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

6	4	7	5	1	3	8	9	2
9	1	2	8	4	6	3	5	7
8	3	5	7	9	2	6	4	1
4	9	1	3	6	7	2	8	5
7	2	8	9	5	1	4	3	6
5	6	3	4	2	8	1	7	9
1	8	4	6	7	5	9	2	3
3	5	6	2	8	9	7	1	4
2	7	9	1	3	4	5	6	8

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min . . . . . Genius
13-17 min. . . . . Scholar
17-21 min . . . . . Smart
21-25 min . . . . . Not bad
25+ min . . . . Keep practising

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Calgary weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
60%	70%			
Showers. 13°	Rain. Low 5°	Partly cloudy. 14°/2°	Sunny. 21°/5°	Sunny. 18°/3°

Temperature
Normals
High: 18.3°
Low: 4.7°

Records
High: 30.7°/1981
Low: -2.2°/1897

Sunrise: 7:02 a.m.
Sunset: 8:02 p.m.
Moonset: 12:09 a.m.
Moonrise: 5:48 p.m.

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